

LATE NEWS FROM THE WRITING AND PUBLISHING WORLD

BOOKS OF THE WEEK
SEEN IN REVIEW

Entertaining Novel by an English Author's Wife—Innovation in Detective Tales.

CHESTERTON'S MYSTERIES

More Literature Bearing on the War From All Viewpoints—Biographical Themes.

The author of "His Official Placard" (Dodd, Mead and Company), Berta Black, is Mrs. Oliver Onions. She apparently has shared in the close study of the English stenographer and woman clerk which her husband has worked into three depressing novels, and at first threatens to rival his gloom. She dwells on the dreary, monotonous, ill-paid life of these women and on the petty office tyranny, for the proper sociological basis must be established before she can start on her amusing romance. The business man, who for certain reasons is obliged to hire a girl to make believe that she is engaged to him, has the luck to pick out one who is of gentle birth and has been brought up as a wealthy man's daughter. She tells the story and the fun and sentiment arise from the contrast of the sham with the real thing in the situations in which the two are placed inevitably. The heroine is very attractive, even though in her self-revelations the author wavers a little between the images of the lady and the workgirl stenographer; the hero is less satisfactory, for he serves chiefly as a foil for the girl and swings mechanically from the wooden business man to the chivalrous poet, according to her needs. The scenes between the two are bright and clever; the minor characters are well drawn, particularly the aesthete, the gushing companion, the older stenographer and the sentimental, half grown girl. The author shows at once what she intends to do, so that the reader will excuse the roughness of the machinery and some absurdities. It is an entertaining and good humored book, which should make Mr. Onions take a less despondent view of life and of stenographers.

A welcome innovation in detective stories will be found in Harvey J. O'Higgins' "The Adventures of Detective Barney" (The Century Company). His hero is a sharp New York street boy, fed on sensational detective tales, who manages to get employment with a real detective. The cases in which he is set to work are exciting enough, but the author exerts his ingenuity in contrasting the boy's adherence to the traditional methods with the results the detective gets out of him in spite of them. The hero is intelligent enough to learn something from his blunders when they are pointed out to him. It is an ideal detective that Mr. O'Higgins has created, but he reasons out his deductions from evidence in his hands, so that the reader can follow the process, and not from intuition.

It is almost miraculous intuition, on the other hand, on which Gilbert K. Chesterton relies in the dozen instances of "The Wisdom of Father Brown" (John Lane Company). In these the French interior often appears and the behavior of all concerned is extraordinary, but Mr. Chesterton has been to make his mysteries vague and impressionistic, so that the reader in some cases is left in doubt as to what the author is driving at. The temptation is strong in all to skip the beginning and turn to the part where Father Brown condescends to explain. With two or three exceptions they are not very good as mystery tales, and though he often breaks out with irrelevant hits at matters that may interest a London audience, they are not particularly good as Chesterton.

It is no flattering picture of New York nor of newspaper life that James L. Ford paints in "The Great Mirage" (Harpers). He traces the fortunes of a singularly unimpressive pair from a country. The man's chief asset is his assurance and his knack of availing himself of the services of others; he advances rapidly for a time and comes to grief deservedly. The girl the author endows with physical attraction and literary ability; her moral sense seems to be sadly atrophied. She drifts easily into dangerous relations with her companion, but is saved first by her going to New York and later by good newspaper men, however, and gets even with him in a rather perilous way. Next she loses her head over a cheap and flashy actor who borrows money from her and other women, and it takes drastic measures to cure her. We are sorry for the man who marries her at the end. The newspaper office in which they work is a delightful place where the every man's hand is raised against his neighbor and the few decent men remain because nobody wants their jobs, and where facts are disregarded for sensation. We have pictures of bohemian restaurants, of the Great White Way, of the intrigues to gain publicity, with moralizing on what are shame and what realities in New York. The author's sarcasm on the ways of the city and of newspapers will please those who are unacquainted with either.

A charming story of how a young Breton girl brings together again her father and mother after many years separation is told by René Bazin in "The House of the Fisherman" (The Century Company, New York). The people are Bretons of the middle class and the author improves the opportunity to describe bits of the coast and of Jersey. The cause of the separation was difference of tastes, aggravated by the interference of an imperious mother-in-law. If she is made unduly savage she is offset by the girl's grandfather, a delightful old Breton fisherman. It is an intimate picture of French family life and of French women, with a deeper feeling for the fascination of the sea than is found in French books. It is also the most carefully constructed story that we have seen from M. Bazin's pen. The translation of L. M. Legrand is very well done.

An elaborate description of the manner in which a discontented and wrong-headed young wife nags herself out of a comfortable home has been written by Horace W. C. Newte in "A Pillar of Salt" (John Lane Company). Her husband is amiable, but colorless; she had never loved him, but there seems no reason for her being disgruntled and starting a flirtation which becomes serious with a peculiarly inane coquettishness. The domestic quarrels and the successive steps in the intrigue are narrated with great minuteness. It ends with a divorce and her marriage to her poet. Then she finds that she has only exchanged a dull, respectable quarter for one even more dull, comfort for indifference, an affectionate husband for one who is irritable and faithless. Her punishment lies in seeing her former husband in affluence, married again to an estimable woman, in an automobile when she must take a bus. A highly moral ending to a commonplace tale of uninteresting people. The author for some reason is very severe against the whole woman movement.



W.L. GEORGE, AUTHOR OF "THE SECOND BLOOMING" (Little Brown)

BARRY PAIN, AUTHOR OF "STORIES WITHOUT TEARS," "ONE KIND AND ANOTHER," "STORIES IN GREY" (Stokes)

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In "The Crystal Road" (John Lane Company) Mrs. Howard Gould has written very pleasantly and very smoothly an old fashioned Indian tale. A white baby is stolen by an Indian woman and brought up as her own; her ability to ascribe magic power to him and to keep dying his body is an improbability which must be accepted. When he grows up he saves a white girl and has to flee from the Indians. The story of the canoe voyage down the Ohio and the Mississippi is charming, and his swim after the girl that takes the girl to France is a fine bit of writing. In the end he is civilized, recognized as a white man and everything comes out right. The author does not care to explain his connection with the crusader she sings in the prologue; she leaves that to be inferred from the amulet which gives its name to the story.

The edifying tale related by George Wesley Davis in "A Morphine Tablet" (W. F. Brainerd, New York) is of a totally depraved mother who takes her young daughter to Europe in order to prevent her from marrying the respectable young man whom she loves. The mother is addicted to drink and to drugs and picks up the ship's doctor as her lover. They visit Naples, where the girl apparently roams about alone without being molested, and Palermo. They administer morphine to her as a medicine. When her lover arrives and rescues her from their she takes an overdose and he dies on her coffin, as his heart is weak. A warning, we suppose, against the morphine habit, but an extremely repulsive story in every way. A new edition of J. C. Snaith's "Broken Covenant" is issued with the original preface (Small, Maynard and Company, Boston). The author has thought well enough of his work to revise his text completely and to cut the story down to 467 pages, thus making work for his commentators should the story live.

ABOUT THE WAR.

In the literature designed to justify one side or the other for its conduct in bringing about the war Germany has so far had the chief part, either as plaintiff or defendant, and her ally has been thrust in the shade in the polemics as well as in the war news. To remedy this Ernest Ludwig, Austro-Hungarian Consul at Cleveland, writes "Austria-Hungary and the War" (J. S. Oakley Publishing Company, New York), for which Ambassador Dr. K. T. Duménil provides a preface. The author takes the advantage, in presenting his country's

A GREAT ACTRESS AND A DREADFUL FINAL SCENE

A woman with great dark eyes lying under a pale lemon light on a low divan piled up with magnificent cushions; this interesting spectacle greets us in the opening words of David Lisle's story of "The Soul of Life, or What Is Love?" (Frederick A. Stokes Company). This vivid chronicle has lain somewhat long in our pile, though it is our persistent intention to neglect nothing. Lucienne Gerome was the baptismal name of the recumbent lady, though many called her "Lucienne the Magnificent." She was the most important actress of her century.

We come now and then in stories upon passages that we cannot bear to slight. The story just here says of Lucienne: "She was riotously superb and extravagant; in her art, in her life, in all things. In many respects she had the imagination of a Nero, and that the imagination had never known the restraint of a curb. A beautiful, reckless woman who had made friends with the spirit of genius, who firmly believed that that spirit had found an abiding place in her soul. She was taking a moment of repose after a long rehearsal." Though repose, she talked incessantly. A tall man with a pointed beard

ing against the war are at hand. "The Book of William" (Frederick Warne and Company) is a very clever adaptation of Edward Lear's nonsense rhymes and pictures to present circumstances. The manner in which the pictures are used is especially good. "The Mad Dog of Potsdam" (Frederick Warne and Company) is a parody on Goldsmith's "An Essay on a Mad Dog," with pictures by Lewis Bauer. In "Wicked Willie" (Longmans, Green and Company), an illustrated folio, Margaret A. Rawlins relates the beginnings of the war in the guise of a nursery tale into which a certain amount of allegory is drawn. Two children, most adrift in Belgium, are picked up by various aviators in Annie Wood Franchot's "War Babies" (The author, Olean, N. Y.; Brentano's) and thus view several of the countries now at war before being conveyed across the Atlantic to America. The book is illustrated. The patriotic feelings of a British soldier who is wounded and the sufferings of his wife are expressed by Florence L. Barclay in a short story "My Heart's Right There" (G. P. Putnam's Sons), with many sentimental touches calculated to appeal to British loyalty.

A book of a general scientific character brought out to provide information that is needed now is Sir Thomas Barclay's "Law and Usage of War" (Houghton Mifflin Company), a short handbook with the topics arranged in alphabetical order to facilitate reference. It gives definite, practical statements about many questions that are arising which will serve as an answer in most cases. It is based on the practice and agreements that were accepted generally until last summer, and where the belligerents on either side now choose to disregard them, it shows, at any rate, what conventions they are violating.

The manner in which the war affects the United States is discussed in the articles which Theodore Roosevelt has gathered in "America and the World War" (Charles Scribner's Sons). It is only natural that German ideals of efficiency and power should appeal to Mr. Roosevelt and that his demands that the country should be prepared to defend itself should sound much like a call to be ready to attack.

Further issues of the reprints of French official publications, "Pages d'Histoire" (Berger-Levrault, Paris), are "Le Livre Bleu Anglais" and two series of "A l'Ordre du Jour," from September 19 to October 14, containing the promotions and other military distinctions. An account of the first portion of the campaign, the invasion of Belgium and the advance of the Germans into France, will be found in "From the Trenches—Louvain to the Aisne," by Geoffrey Winthrop Young (Frederick A. Stokes Company), a British war correspondent who hovered around the Belgian and French armies.

Among the war biographies one of the most interesting is that of "Sir John French," written by Cecil Chisholm (Frederick A. Stokes Company), which relates the military career of the British commander up to the outbreak of the war. This account of his services explains the confidence that England has in him.

Three more "Pamphlets on the European Crisis," reprints of articles in the newspapers and other periodicals, come from the Macmillans. Sir Edward Cook in "Britain and Turkey" explains from the diplomatic correspondence why Turkey joined in the war. James Wyllie Headlam has his say about rights and wrongs in "England, Germany and Europe," and patriotism is stirred by "An Englishman's Call to Arms."

Several examples of publications expressing animosity against Germany are designed to arouse proper British feeling over her, taking notes. He was her secretary; his look indicated that he was abnormally intelligent; he had the right to an old Austrian title and had once been rich. The room, though large, was thronged with people. It smelt of powders and toilet waters, of staphylococcus growing in an old jar, of a variety of scents. Messengers came and went, bearing away telegrams and communications to be shot through the pneumatic tubes. The great actress clapped her hands, lay back and closed her eyes. Instantly the room was deserted.

Guy de Vesian, Lucienne's lover, was a decadent poet. Words, says the story, were his slaves. "With relentless intention he flung them together in order that they in sudden fury might tear and destroy the ideals of yesterday. More modern than all the other modernists, he gloried in setting light to a holocaust of tender dreams." He was not a handsome man, but he had charm. He was rich. He was in the theatre on that dreadful July night when some of the audience, conceiving that Lucienne was too old for her part, laughed and hissed. He was rich. He was in the theatre on that dreadful July night when some of the audience, conceiving that Lucienne was too old for her part, laughed and hissed. He was rich. He was in the theatre on that dreadful July night when some of the audience, conceiving that Lucienne was too old for her part, laughed and hissed.

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THE NEWINTERNATIONAL

The second revised and augmented edition of "The New International Encyclopedia," edited by Frank Moore Colby and Talbot Williams, is progressing rapidly. Two new volumes, VII and VIII, covering titles from Didymus through J. H. Forsaker, having appeared since the recent one in The Six. More than a third of the work is therefore ready. The two volumes seem to have an unusually large proportion of illustrations, while the alphabetical order brings in several long articles of importance such as those on England, English Literature, Europe, Eggs, Fish, Five Engines, which we take at random. The thoroughness which has marked the selection of biographies of living persons is shown by the inclusion of Mr. N. H. Dole, Mr. Dooley, the tenor Ferrarini, Fontana, H. T. Fink, Horace Fletcher among others and a multitude of respectable college professors. The "New International" in this edition is the most recent of the encyclopedias on the dictionary model and the most convenient for general use.

BIOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

The "George Bernard Shaw" of Joseph McCabe (Mitchell Kennerly, New York) is an appreciation and an analysis of the author's works and career by an admirer who takes him very seriously. The sort of book that will be welcomed by literary clubs, as it will furnish them with material for discussion. A perusal will make the ordinary reader suspect that an impartial, prosaic observer might see the events in the writer's life with different eyes. Mr. McCabe criticizes Shaw's books and ideas freely, but his criticism is in the form of refuting or commenting on theories advanced rather than in inquiring whether there is any justification for proposing them or whether there is any substance to them.

One of the great war correspondents books, the late G. W. Stevens' "With Kitchener to Khartoum," is issued in a new edition, with a wealth of Lord Kitchener's career (Dodd, Mead and Company). It is the spirited account of the brilliant exploit that made Kitchener and is well worth reading again now that he controls England's part in the war.

The brief tribute to "George Westinghouse" (no imprint) by Arthur Warren gives an interesting view of a busy and useful life, with a list of important events, all marking scientific progress, and a list of honors conferred on Mr. Westinghouse. To these is joined the sermon preached at the funeral by the Rev. Dr. S. J. Fisher.

Books Received.

"The Works of Edgar Allan Poe," 16 vols. Edited by Edmund Clarence Steadman and George Edward Woodberry. (Charles Scribner's Sons.)
"The Book Standard Dictionary." Abridged by James C. Fernald (Funk and Wagnalls Company.)
"The Parables of the Gospel." Leopold Fouck, S. J. (Frederick Pustet and Company, New York.)
"Studies in Southern History and Politics."

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Edith Sitwell's story of "A Lady of Leisure" (Small, Maynard and Company) is one of those conversational novels that plenty of readers delight to peruse. It flows gently, with no disturbing intrusion of abrupt effects. The impression of plenty of time, of roundness, of finish, of security from sharp excursions of a nervous character, is perfectly sustained. Here is the rectory, a pleasant rectory in Kent. English novels have not neglected to make rectories quite familiar to us, but what is familiar may be far from tedious. Its charm may be abiding.

Here is Charles Shovel, stepson of Mr. Gibbs, the rector, own son of the present Mrs. Gibbs. He reclines in the low window seat of the long drawing room, imbedded softly in cushions, supplied conveniently and copiously with magazines. His share in the conversation is rather scornfully infrequent, in the manner of his speech he is dogmatic, sarcastic and given languidly to monotony. The talk of the ladies—Mrs. Gibbs, Maud, the daughter, and Miss Lennox, the visitor—is in a different style, a style less studied, less sententious, less likely to give offence. The tea was good—strawberries and cream—and Charles had a good appetite for these afternoon refectations. "You would really think Charles desired to be thought half-witted," so said Mrs. Gibbs after her son had left the room. Miss Lennox also thought that "young Mr. Shovel was really too silly." But gentlemen lay behind Charles's conversation. There were reasons why he talked as he did.

Violet is in the story, as well as Margery and Maud and others. It is really upon Violet and Charles that the chief interest hangs.

(Columbia University Press; Lemcke and Boring; "Mrs. Martin's Man," St. John G. Ervine, (Macmillans).
"Life in a German Crack Regiment," Baron von Schlicht (Dodd, Mead and Company).
The Good Shepherd, John Roland, (Frederick A. Stokes Company).
"The Magic Tale of Harvanger and Yolande," P. Baker, (George H. Doran Company).
The General Education Board, 1902-1914, (General Education Board, New York).
School Hygiene, Leo Burgerstein, Ph. D., (Little, Brown and Company).

L. D. (Frederick A. Stokes Company).
"Occasional Addresses," Brainerd Kellogg, L. D. (Charles E. Merrill and Company).
"The Incomparable Christ," Calvin Weiss, Langer, A. (The Abington Press, New York).
Makers of America, Emma Lillian Dana, (Immigrant Publication Society, New York).
Standard Oil of the People, Henry H. Klein, (The Author, New York).
Outdoor Oklahoma, Frederick S. Barde, (Cooperative Publishing Company, Guthrie, Okla.).
Shakespeare Study Programs, The Commonwealth, Charlotte Porter and Helen A. Clarke, (Richard G. Badger, Boston).
Shakespeare Study Programs, The Trag-

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"Sons of Kishit," Rashidnath Tagore, (Macmillans).
"Random Verses," Henry H. Harper, (Private printed, Boston).
"The New Chivalry," Henry E. Jackson, (George H. Doran Company).

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